

THE SUICIDE SEVEN
OR
THE PERILS OF RHODODENDRON PLANTING ON SADDLE MOUNTAIN

The Angora Club throughout its history has stood for the highest ideals and unselfish work for the benefit of all.

One of their worthy projects; that of planting rhododendrons on Saddle Mountain has just been completed. The rhododendron grows in abundance in southern Oregon, but does not seem to have come north of the Siletz River. In order to insure a lasting bloom on Saddle Mountain, the Angora Club undertook to plant rhododendrons upon its slopes.

Through the influence of Angoras August Hildebrand, John Berry, Charles Hustwick and several others, one hundred rhododendron plants were secured from the Mount Hood district for planting on Saddle Mountain.

On February 21, 1926, a group of Angoras, since known as the "Suicide Seven" left Astoria for Saddle Mountain, loaded with sleeping equipment and supplies for two days, several rhododendron plants, one hundred varieties of wild flowers and several lily bulbs.

Arriving at Camp One of the Eastern and Western Logging Company, all shouldered heavy packs weighing in the neighborhood of one hundred pounds each and started for the mountain. Numerous signs of deer and wild cat were observed all along the trail. Due to the weight of the packs, several rests were necessary. On each stop many subjects were discussed. Wm. Barth said this was an ideal trip as no girls were along. He claimed that whenever girls were present, they all picked an argument with him. Subjects discussed included the possibility of success of the Wilkins Polar expedition, whether mince pie was a good mountain food, who invented rubber dish towels, the cause of baldness, some saying that no grass grows on busy streets, others claim-

pie was a good mountain food, who invented rubber dish towels, the cause of baldness, some saying that no grass grows on busy streets, others claiming that empty barns need no cover, the precise way women gazed at strange women, the easy life of school teachers, why stenographers marry their employers, etc., etc., and so on and so forth, in like manner and the same way. Bevo. Amen.

Travel was easy till the forest at the foot of the mountain was reached. This section needs some work on the trail due to the thick brush and several fallen logs which impede progress. The rest of the trail to the base camp is in good condition and progress was rapid.

Camp for the trip was established at the base of a cliff called Little Saddle Mountain. This was examined with a view as to its practicability as a future lodge site. The view from the cliff is marvelous, Astoria and the Washington shore being easily visible. The cliff affords a marvelous view, and if a suitable water supply can be found in the vicinity, it will be an ideal spot for a cabin.

A lean to was constructed of tent cloth and the ground strewn with hemlock boughs, and in a heavy rain dinner was eaten. Immediately afterward the party, composed of John "Romeo" Berry, Axel "Submarine" Ramvick, Willie "Beans" Weis, "Hard Boiled" Albert Remmen, Charles "Am" Hustwick, William "Lightfoot" Barth and Harold Johnson, left for the section of the mountain known as the "flower gardens".

At a point where the Old Trail passes the Flower Gardens, in the bed of a creek, the first plant was placed. It is proposed in honor of this occasion that this stream shall henceforth be called "Rhododendron Creek". Charles Hustwick, as superintendent, bent down to the plant and whispered a charm.

Little flowers in the earth,
Papa cover you with dirt,
Try and grow up to the sky,
I will watch you by and by.

With this exhortation the plants immediately grew six inches. Plants were placed through the Flower Gardens nearly to the North Spur, which will henceforth be called Berry's Spur, in honor of Chief Guide John Berry, who has done more than anyone else in revealing Saddle Mountain's wonders. This spur was to have been dedicated upon this occasion, a bottle of R-Porter being in readiness for the christening ceremony, but due to the heavy rain the entire party was wet through, and so a retreat to camp was ordered. Here it was found that the ground was so wet that it was impractical for all to stay there so all but John Berry and Harold Johnson returned to the logging camp for the night.

Next morning, Feb. 22, the climb up the mountain was made with the rest of the plants to be set. Through a driving snow which covered the mountain to a depth of six inches several plants were placed at the top of the new trail and the base of the middle peak. The locations being sheltered it is presumed that the plants will propagate naturally and in a few years cover the mountain.

The planting completed, the trip to camp was made. Camp broken and the return trip to the railroad made without incident. As it was necessary to wait till 7 p. m. for the jitney, supper was consumed at the logging camp. The menu was so complete that all gained considerable weight, Albert Remmen and William Barth eating the most, with Willie the least.

The menu was as follows:

	Toothpicks	
Volstead Cocktail	Coffee	Tea
	Corned Willie	
Rubber Steak	Hash	Sauer-Kraut & Weiners
		Spuds
Brown Cake	White Cake	Green Cake
Stewed (not inebriated) figs		Peaches
	Brown and White Cookies	
	Tobacco.	

After outside of this Gargantuan fee we took the jitney
for home and arrived safely, but damp.

Respectfully submitted,
Harold Johnson.

We, the undersigned, being a group of Angoras known as the "Suicide Seven", the "Starvation Gang", the "Faithful Fools" and various other sundry names, do hereby submit this resolution to the rest of the Inner Circle of Hot House Plants.

WHEREAS: We, the undersigned, have undergone exceedingly trying circumstances, have suffered manifold tribulations of the spirit, have been troubled sorely, have been deprived of the society of feminine Angoras (for which we are sincerely grateful), have been hoodwinked, bamboozled, cajoled, led into, led out of, ensnared, trapped and mislead, etc., into believing we would have fine weather and lots of help, have suffered the perils of drowning and so on;

BE IT RESOLVED that we be eliminated from dish washing duty and on all future hikes the girls must transport our packs.

Signed

The Suicide Seven.